



Childhood Connections

February 1, 2022

The First 120 Days in the Office



This past month, team members in the Office of Childhood created an at-a-glance report to help promote activities in the first 120 days of the new office.

[This new report](#) includes key program data representing every section in the office, including the families, children, and professionals we serve; the communications and professional development we provide; and the relief funding we offer.

Also this past month, we have been identifying big goals and developing project plans for our work this year. In 2021, we talked about some challenges and solutions, and in 2022, we are putting these plans into action and measuring progress. Watch for more information about these big goals and related activities in upcoming newsletters.

I'm grateful for the numerous communications and collaborations with professionals recently that have resulted in innovative ideas and creative solutions. Together, we are creating a stronger childhood system in Missouri and we appreciate the partnership!

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

NEW! Missouri State Advisory Council

To further coordinate the Office of Childhood efforts (OOC), Governor Mike Parson recently signed [Executive Order 22-1](#) to consolidate early childhood advisory councils. Specifically, the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) are now combined in one council. This consolidation streamlines our work to increase access to, and quality of, care and education during the early years, especially for traditionally underserved populations. Through the work of this advisory council, all children can have



2022 Child Care Market Rate Survey Now Live!

A link to the current survey was recently emailed to both subsidy and non-subsidy providers to gather rate data across the state. The OOC strongly encourages every child

access to early childhood opportunities and all families can be more prepared to transition into kindergarten.

NEW! Developmental Screening Resources

A developmental screening is an important part of determining if a child is reaching milestones by a certain age. It can provide a picture of a child's strengths and any areas of need. There is a [direct link between milestones and school readiness](#), so acting early can make a big difference in promoting continued developmental growth to ensure a child is ready for success in school and in life.

The Office of Childhood in collaboration with the University of Missouri-Columbia and The Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics created several resources to assist early care and education professionals when administering developmental screenings. The [Ages and Stages Questionnaires](#), [BRIGANCE Early Childhood Screens III](#), and [Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning](#) are a few of the recommended tools that should be administered annually or in accordance with each protocol. An updated version of the [Developmental Screening Process for Children Birth to Kindergarten Entry flowchart and instructions](#) is also available to explain the steps to take when providing a developmental screening.

To learn more about the importance of developmental screenings and how early care and education professionals can share information about screenings with families, take a look at the [Developmental Screening 101 flyer](#).

NOTICE! 1099s Sent to Child Care Providers

Tax season is upon us! The OOC and its vendors sent 1099 tax forms to First Steps providers and child care providers who received subsidy payments and/or relief funds. Please check your mailbox in the coming days for your forms.

REMINDER! Child Care Fingerprint Registration Code

The Missouri Automated Criminal History Site (MACHS) registration code for fingerprinting for licensed, regulated, and registered child care staff members is **8897**. If the wrong code is used, child

care provider to complete this important survey! Information collected includes the prices families pay, or market rates, for early childhood care and education services by type of care, ages and populations served, and location. **The information you provide will help set child care subsidy rates.** Thank you in advance for your participation.

Parent Leadership Month in Missouri

Through executive proclamation, February has been recognized as Parent Leadership Month in Missouri for the past three years. This February, make it a goal to foster leadership roles for potential parent leaders and encourage the development of the parent voice within communities. If you are a parent, or an early childhood professional who is supporting the growth of a parent leader, you can [learn more here](#).

Reminder! First Steps Background Screening/Fingerprint Changes

As of November 1, 2021, the registration code for [background screening/fingerprinting](#) for First Steps enrollment has changed. The new Missouri Automated Criminal History Site

care staff members will need to be fingerprinted again under the correct code. If your potential staff member is not sure about what code to use when registering to be fingerprinted, clarification can be found at the [Child Care Background Check webpage](#). Here you will find the [fingerprint services form](#) with the correct code for child care, information on the steps of the child care background check process, answers to frequently asked questions, and more.

NEW! Child Care Paycheck Protection Program Application is Available

The OOC is excited to announce that a new round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is now open. You can submit an application for relief funds to help with staffing expenses from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Visit the [PPP webpage](#) to apply or learn more. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2022.

REMINDER! Child Care Non-Traditional Care Application Ends February 10th

The Non-Traditional Hours of Care application allows for reimbursement to child care providers who cared for children during non-traditional hours between September 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. Visit the [Non-Traditional Care webpage](#) to apply or learn more.

The deadline to apply is February 10, 2022. After submitting your application, you can email ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov if you have questions about your submission.

NEW! Child Care Compliance Complaint Team

The OOC's Child Care Compliance Section recently created a statewide complaint team to investigate complaints related to child care. This new team will help divide the duties of child care inspectors. One team will focus on consultation and assistance for providers to support compliance with rules and regulations. The other team will dedicate their time to completing investigations quickly to meet the needs of providers. This new team will increase consistency to investigations and improve customer service for child care providers.

Learn More About First Steps

(MACHS) registration code is **8918**.

Finding the Right Child Care Program

Finding the right child care program doesn't have to be stressful and time consuming. Child Care Aware® of Missouri helps families who are looking for child care to find safe and quality care that meets their family's needs. This video series guides families through the process of finding the right child care for them. The series can be viewed on the [Child Care Aware website](#).

NEW! Child Care Search Application

Child Care Aware® of Missouri is excited to announce a new app to help Missouri families make important child care decisions. Access [the new app here](#) to search for child care, learn more about your options to pay for child care, understand the questions to ask potential programs, and how to make the best informed child care decision.

Child Care Scholarship

Earn your national [Child Development Associate® Credential \(CDA Credential\)](#) and advance your career while earning a \$430 completion bonus and Child Care Aware® of Missouri will pay for

First Steps is Missouri's Early Intervention system for infants and toddlers, birth to age three, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions associated with developmental disabilities, such as Down syndrome, Autism, Spina bifida, Cleft Lip/Palate, etc.

your application fee.
Apply today!

The First Steps program improves a family's capacity to enhance their child's development and learning and increases the child's participation everyday routines and activities. You can learn more about [First Steps eligibility requirements here](#).

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Greentree Learning and Childcare Center students on a field trip. Photo courtesy of Greentree Learning Childcare Center.

[Greentree Learning and Childcare Center](#) (GLCC) in Rolla, Missouri serves children from ages 2-12. This non-profit center offers an afterschool and summer care program for children from 5-12, and a child care and preschool for children from 2-5 with a focus on play-based learning and community involvement. At Greentree, they believe that community involvement is integral to a successful program. GLCC staff collaborate with community organizations

in the area to strengthen learning opportunities for their diverse student population. Here are some examples of their community collaborations:

GLCC worked with Missouri S&T Aerospace engineers and Mars Rover Team, the United States Geographical Survey agency, local fire and police departments, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Kaleidoscope Discovery Center, and community leaders to bring their respective expertise areas into the classrooms to inspire students with new learning paths. GLCC works to not only bring the community in through its doors, it also reaches out to the community for input on their programs. The GLCC leadership created a Facebook page for all the child care center directors in the Rolla area to collaborate, brainstorm, and support each other. "We are proud to be a part of our community and hope to continue fostering a love of service and to collaborate with amazing organizations," said Director Rachel Allison.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on February 28, 2022, from noon-12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.



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